



To Whom it May Concern,

Nov. 4, 2009

We would like to express our concerns over Senate Bill 725 and House Bill 5334. We are a Certified Compost Facility in Livingston County. Our Centennial farm received over 9000 cubic yards of yard waste this year. This yard waste is recycled here into compost that is used on our farm to grow crops without the use of chemical fertilizers.

We have been in the composting business since 1995 and find that it is a wise stewardship of organics. As farmers, we are concerned about issues such as soil loss, erosion, and lack of organic matter in Michigan soils. Compost facilities such as ours address agricultural concerns by taking material that would have gone into the landfills and supplying a source of soil amendment much needed by farms and gardeners. Topsoil suppliers have found that compost gives the soil they make the organic matter it needs and can be more cost effective to use than peat.

In the years since the yard waste ban was passed the compost industry, Solid Waste Departments and others have worked hard to promote compost. Much progress has been made and homeowners are making the connection between separating yard waste and using the resulting compost in their gardens. I believe this is good environmental science and the best stewardship of yard waste. It is a system that is working.

I believe that compost facilities such as ours will close if Senate Bill 725 is passed because the majority of yard waste would go to landfills near us. I also believe that there will be a shortage of organic material available for Michigan farms and gardeners to use. Therefore we are opposed to this bill. We urge you to consider the demise of the composting industry in this state.

Sincerely,

Jim and Sandra Tuthill
Tuthill Farms and Composting, Inc.
10505 Tuthill Rd.
S. Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-7354